



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Vice Chair Michelle Steel

3rd District – Orange County

Cynthia Bridges
Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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Free Palm Desert Food Industry Seminar **Restaurant, Bar, Mobile Food Truck Owners Forum to Ask Questions, Get Tax Help**

Sacramento – Restaurant and bar owners, mobile food vendors, and others who would like to start or expand a food industry business, are invited to attend a [free Palm Desert food industry seminar](#) on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at the Coachella Valley Water District in Palm Desert. California State Board of Equalization (BOE) Vice Chair Michelle Steel and Riverside County Supervisor John Benoit are sponsoring this informative event.

Representatives from the BOE, Department of Alcohol Beverage Control, and Employment Development Department will offer presentations that will answer questions about sales and use tax, identifying taxable items, tip and wage reporting, happy hour rules about pricing below cost, unemployment insurance information, what licenses businesses need to post, what owners need to provide new employees, and information for food trucks and mobile food vendors.

Event: Free Palm Desert Food Industry Seminar

Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.
(Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.)

Place: Coachella Valley Water District
Steve Robbins Administration Building
75-515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92211
(Free Parking)

Registration: www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/restsched.htm or call 1-888-847-9652

Learn more about a variety of other BOE [in-person classes](#) and [online seminars](#).

Editor's note: The following PSAs ([15-second audio](#)) and ([30-second audio](#)) are available for your use.

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Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$53.7 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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